

REMARKS

Applicants request reconsideration of the present application in view of the present Amendment. Claims 21-22 and 26 are canceled by this Amendment, claims 23-25 and 27 are amended, and claims 29-46 are added.

Interview

Applicants appreciate the courtesy of an interview extended by the Examiner, held on January 24, 2005. In the interview, the Examiner and Applicants discussed claim language that would overcome the cited prior art. Conclusions of the interview are included in the following amendments.

Claims 23, 25 and 27

Item 6 of the Office Action indicates that claims 23, 25 and 27 would be allowable if amended to be in independent form and to indicate that the corrugations are aligned along the direction of flow. Claims 23, 25 and 27 are accordingly recast in independent form and amended to specify that the liquid flows parallel with the corrugations. Therefore, claims 23, 25 and 27 are now allowable.

The phrase "configured to conduct a mixture of a liquid and a contaminant" recited in canceled base claim 21 is replaced with "configured to conduct a liquid" in claims 23, 25 and 27. The phrase "to the rear end" recited in canceled base claim 21 is replaced with "toward the rear end" in claims 23, 25 and 27. These replacements were tentatively agreed to by the Examiner in the interview. Additionally, the phrase "upward to the top of the cavity" in claim 23 is replaced with "upward". These changes do not affect patentability over the cited prior art.

Claims 24, 28 and 29

Each of claims 24, 28 and 29 depends from claim 23 or 27, which are allowable as explained avoid. The limitations that claims 24, 28 and 29 add to claims 23 or 27 distinguish them further from the prior art. This is in addition to item 7 of the Office Action indicating patentable subject matter in claim 28. Therefore, claim 24, 28 and 29 also are allowable.

Claim 30

New claim 30 recites a coalescer comprising a stack of corrugated plates. Between the plates, liquid flows parallel to the corrugations. The liquid can exit the cavity through an outlet tube defining a horizontal outlet channel that is above the plates.

This configuration is not disclosed or suggested by any of the references. Therefore, claim 30 is patentable over the cited prior art.

Claim 31

Claim 31 depends from claim 30. The limitation that claim 31 adds to claim 30 distinguishes claim 31 further from the prior art. Therefore, claim 31 also is patentable.

Claim 32

Claim 32 recites a coalescer comprising a stack of corrugated plates. Between the plates, the liquid flows parallel with the corrugations along the full lengths of the corrugations.

None of the cited references, including French Patent No. 1093155, discloses or suggests liquid flowing, as claimed, parallel to the corrugations along the full lengths of the corrugations. Particularly in the French patent, the water does not flow parallel with the corrugations along the full lengths of the corrugations. Instead, the water flows horizontally through the plates, as indicated by lines A in Fig. 1, by way of perforations 5 (Fig. 2) in the plates. Therefore, claim 32 is patentable over the cited prior art.

Claim 33-40

Claims 33-40 depend from claim 32. The limitations that they add to claim 32 distinguish them further from the prior art. Therefore, claims 33-40 also are patentable.

Claim 41

Claim 41 recites a coalescer comprising a stack of corrugated plates that extend upward from a bottom of the stack and have corrugations extending upward. The liquid enters the coalescer by flowing upwardly through the bottom of the stack and flows upwardly between the plates in a direction parallel with the corrugations.

None of the cited references, including French Patent No. 1093155, discloses or suggests the liquid flowing, as claimed, upward through the bottom of the stack and, further, between the plates parallel with the corrugations. Particularly in the French patent, the water does not flow, as claimed, upward through the bottom of the stack. In fact, the water is prevented from doing so by the plates 4 or valves 13 extending to the bottom of the cavity as indicated in Figs. 1, 12 and 14. Therefore, claim 41 is patentable over the cited prior art.

Claim 42-43

Claim 42-43 depend from claim 41. The limitations that they add to claim 41 distinguish them further from the prior art. Therefore, claims 42-43 also are patentable.

Claim 44

Claim 44 recites a coalescer comprising a stack of corrugated plates that have corrugations extending upward. The liquid flows upwardly between the plates in a direction parallel with the corrugations and upwardly through the top of the stack.

None of the cited references, including French Patent No. 1093155, discloses or suggests the liquid flowing, as claimed, upwardly between the plates parallel with the corrugations and further upwardly through the top of the stack. Particularly in the French patent, the water does not flow, as claimed, upwardly through the top of the stack. In fact, the water is prevented from doing so by the plates 4 extending to the top of the cavity as indicated in Figs. 1, 12 and 14. Therefore, claim 44 is patentable over the cited prior art.

Claim 45-46

Claim 45-46 depend from claim 44. The limitations that claims 45-46 add to claim 44 distinguish them further from the prior art. Therefore, claims 45-46 also are patentable.

The application should now be in condition for allowance, and allowance is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Mitchell Rose

Mitchell Rose, Patent Agent
Registration No. 47,906
JONES DAY
901 Lakeside Ave.
Cleveland, OH 44114
(216)586-7094

Date: 2/7/05